

## **Capsule Summary**

Matise Property

PG:84-31

Accokeek Vicinity

1880

Private

The Matise Property consists of a cross-gable vernacular farm house and four outbuildings. The house was constructed in 1880 and the outbuildings in the late nineteenth up to the mid-twentieth century. The property was once part of three larger farms, the main portion of the property belonging to one of the lines of the Claggett family prior to the construction of the house. The property echoes what happened to many larger land holdings after the Civil War; plantations were gradually replaced by smaller tenant farms and more diversified crops. Truck farmers in Prince George's County grew cash crops for sale that were either shipped via railroad throughout the Eastern Seaboard or used in local canning factories.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG:84-31

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Leroy Towles

other Lillian Matisse (preferred)

### 2. Location

street and number 15755 Livingston Road not for publication

city, town Accokeek, MD 20607 vicinity

county Prince George's

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Shelwick I, LLC

street and number 15755 Livingston Road telephone

city, town Accokeek state MD zip code 20607

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber folio

city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 151 tax parcel 247 tax ID number 035537

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☒ Other: *Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory of the Matisse Property, Prince George's County, Maryland*

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	5 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	1 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	6 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. PG: 84-31

### Condition

☐ excellent    ☒ deteriorated  
☐ good        ☐ ruins  
☒ fair         ☐ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Matise property is located on the north side of Livingston Road in an increasing more suburban area. Livingston Road is located off MD 210/Indianhead Highway. This area has experienced rapid suburban growth in the last five to seven years. Livingston Road consists mainly of smaller single-family residences, interspersed with churches or single commercial structures and has a rural feel, although the area is quite densely populated. Larger parcels, such as the Matise property, are not as numerous, and are giving way to newer neighborhoods.

The Matise house sits on a flat, broad parcel with mature trees and shrubs. Two large trees frame the front of the house and the shrubs have been planted at the foundation as well as a small bed in the center of the yard. Shrubs sporadically line the circular drive. Sidewalks along the east side of the house connect the house to the yard and driveway. The property consists of five standing structures and includes the house, garage, a small concrete root cellar, two sheds, and the remains of a shed, and the foundation of another undetermined outbuilding.

The house is a circa 1880 2-story, cross-gabled vernacular frame structure that is two bays wide and two bays deep. The house features a composition shingle roof, with two interior chimneys set perpendicular to the ridge line of the east and west gable ends. The east side of the house serves as the main entry into the house through the full-length enclosed porch. The south side of the house (which faces the street) has an enclosed entranceway at one corner. The house is clad with asbestos siding. The windows are six over six and on the north (rear) of the house metal awnings shade the windows. There are small, fixed, vertical four-light windows in the gable ends. The house is set on a brick and concrete foundation.

The first outbuilding (Outbuilding No. 1) is a one-story frame garage clad with oriented strand board (OSB) and has an asphalt shingle roof. The front of the garage has a pair of five-foot wide swinging doors. The frame of the garage appears to be an older structure that had its siding replaced in the late-twentieth century with OSB.

Near this garage is Outbuilding No. 2, a small, concrete block root cellar with an asphalt roll shed roof. It is approximately 4-feet about ground and appears to extend into the ground for cold storage.

Further north on the property are two sheds. Outbuilding No. 3 is a gable front building with board and batten siding, a plank door, plank flooring, and a raised foundation. Currently it is used for storage, but may have once been used as a corn crib. The second storage building (Outbuilding No. 4) is also a frame structure with board and batten siding. Its asphalt roll roof is collapsing under the vegetation.

Documentation in the *Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory of the Matise Property, Prince George's County, Maryland* states that there is another frame building, a spring house (Outbuilding No. 5), at the rear of the property. This building was not accessible for investigation due to the overgrown vegetation in June 2008.

Also, immediately to the rear of the house are the remains of the foundation of another outbuilding. The foundation remains are further described in 18PR912.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. PG: 84-31

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

<b>Specific dates</b>	1880	<b>Architect/Builder</b>
<b>Construction dates</b>		
Evaluation for:		
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Statement of Significance

The Matisse Property is circa 1880 dwelling with several outbuildings. The house is in fair condition, but the mid-twentieth century outbuildings are generally in very poor condition due to an overgrowth of vegetation and lack of general maintenance.

### General History of Prince George's County at the time of Construction of the Matisse Property

At the time of the construction of the Matisse property (circa 1870-1880), Prince George's County was in a transitional period. Agricultural was still the main economic pursuit with crossroad communities, rural churches, schools, mills, blacksmith shops, and other small enterprises supporting the agricultural community. With that said, there was the development of new manufacturing technologies and commerce and industry became increasingly important in the Western Shore region of Maryland. Most notable impacts of the Industrial Revolution in Prince George's County can be seen through transportation systems and local manufacturing. Another major shift during the 1870s and 1880s was the waning large plantation economy. Plantations were gradually replaced by smaller tenant farms and more diversified crops. Truck farmers in Prince George's County grew cash crops for sale, and with the development of the railroad, crops were sent all over the Eastern Seaboard.

By 1930, Prince George's County still continued to produce tobacco, higher land prices and federal regulations of tobacco acreage and production cut the size of the average farm. Traditional agricultural landscapes were being replaced by large-scale developments and the eventual suburbanization with increased use of the automobile and federal government agencies spreading into the out-lying regions of Washington, DC.

The site specific history echos this trend – the property was once part of a larger farm, and was slowly sold off in smaller increments. The 1938 aerial photograph of the property illustrates the house and associated fields as well as outbuildings, strongly suggesting that the property was farmed – for either private use, or extra produced sold.

### Site Specific History

Although only 13.3 acres in size, the project area is apparently composed of parts of three historically named parcels. Most of the project area comes from a property called Cedar Hill, which should not be confused with historic properties of the same name located near Glenn Dale and Bowie (Maryland Historical Trust, Historic Sites Survey Nos. PG:70-22 and PG:71A-8). A smaller portion of the project area, no more than 1.45 acres in size, was part of properties historically known as Webster's Choice and Farmington. Farmington originally had been part of the original patent known as Piscataway Manor or Calvert Manor.

The discussion below focuses mainly on that part of the project area that was part of Cedar Hill, although the entire project area was owned by the Clagett family during much of the nineteenth century. The chain-of-title research for the property suggests that Thomas Henry Clagett likely owned Cedar Hill in addition to Webster's Choice and Farmington, but this was not conclusively demonstrated. The small portion of the project area that may have been part of Webster's Choice and Farmington/Piscataway Manor was sold to John Manning in 1849 per the decree in an equity case between Thomas L. Clagett (executor of Thomas H. Clagett) and John H. Clagett and others (Prince George's County Deed Book JBB 5:520). This property stayed in the extended Manning and Edelen family until the 1940s.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 84-31

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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The first documented individual who could be identified as owning the Cedar Hill property was John H. Clagett. John Hancock Clagett was reportedly born about 1815, the son of Thomas Henry Clagett and Henrietta Bean Marbury (The Generations Network 2007a). John H. Clagett was listed as a head of household in the 1840 census in District 5 in Prince George's County (U.S. Census Bureau 1840). He was between 20 and 30 years of age, and his household included one male 50–59 years of age, one male under 5, and one female 15–19 years of age. Fourteen slaves also were included in the household, consisting of one male 35–54, four males 24–35, two males 10–23, one male under 10, one female 36–54, three females 10–23, and two females under 10. John Clagett's father, Thomas H. Clagett also was a head of household in District 5, and his household included 12 slaves (one male 36–54, one male 24–35, four males 10–23, one female 55–99, one female 36–54, three females 10–23, and one female under 10). These slaves could have been working the properties known as Webster's Choice and Farmington.

In the 1850 census, John H. Clagett was listed as a head of household in Piscataway District (District 5 of 1840) Prince George's County (U.S. Census Bureau 1850a). He was described as a 35-year-old farmer from Maryland with real estate valued at 9,039 dollars. His household apparently included his wife (C. Clagett, 29), six children (John T., 11; William B., 9; A. M., 6; A., 4; C., 3; and H. B., 1), and a likely relative of his wife, H. E. Beans, 24. John H. Clagett's wife's maiden name was reportedly Bean (The Generations Network 2007b). The 1850 slave schedules show John H. Clagett owned 20 slaves consisting of 11 men and boys ranging from 1 to 74 years of age and 9 women and girls ranging from 4 to 75 years of age (U.S. Census Bureau 1850b).

John H. Clagett was listed as a head of household in the 1860 census in the 5th Election District of Prince George's County (U.S. Census Bureau 1860a). He was a 45-year-old farmer from Maryland with real estate valued at 20,000 dollars and personal property at 8,000 dollars. Also in the household were his wife, Catherine (39), and their children, John T. (21), Albert M. (19), Catherine O. (16), and Henrietta B. (11). Harriet Bean (35) also listed in the household was probably a relative of Catherine. The 1860 slave schedules indicate John H. Clagett owned 23 slaves consisting of 15 men and boys ranging in age from 1 month to 57 years and 8 women and girls from 8 to 75 years in age (U.S. Census Bureau 1860b). One male slave, 55 years old, was described as idiotic, and John H. Clagett had five slave houses on his property. A John Clagett residence is located to the west of the project area on an 1861 map (Figure 7). No structures are present within the general vicinity of the project area.

John H. Clagett apparently died during the Civil War period since his wife was listed in the slave statistics of 1867. In that document, she indicated that she owned 22 slaves at the time the new Maryland Constitution was adopted (Maryland State Archives 2007). These slaves are described in Table 4. The ink is faded on this page of the document, and the names have been interpreted as best they could. All were described as in good health and had been slaves for life. Although widowed, Catherine Clagett and her children apparently came out of the Civil War with more property intact than did other families. The 1870 census listed her as a head of household in Piscataway District with real estate valued at 25,000 dollars and personal property at 2,000 dollars (U.S. Census Bureau 1870). Two of her sons (John T. and Albert M.) were listed as farmers in her household, and they had real estate valued at 9,000 dollars and 6,000 dollars. However, the nearest Clagett residence to the project area is that of Albert Clagett (the son of Catherine and John), located to the north (Figure 8). No structures are present within the general vicinity of the project area.

While no structures are depicted on the 1878 Hopkins map as being within the project area, tax records suggest that the domestic structure now on the property was present by 1880, suggesting a late 1870s date of construction. The Reverend John Towles, father of the individual who purchased the property in 1888, is listed as being in this vicinity in the 1880 census. Towles was a minister at St. John's Parish in Accokeek and died on 16 April 1885 at the rectory in Accokeek.

After the death of Catherine Clagett, her will apparently devised the Cedar Hill property to her sons John and Albert. On 1 October 1888 Albert and John Clagett sold 17.5 acres containing the project area to Leroy C. Towles for 175 dollars (Prince George's County Deed Book JWB 11:362). Leroy Towles was a physician who died in 1900, and his wife, Emma, died in 1907. The 1910 census list the son of Leroy Towles, also Leroy C. Towles, as living at the house with Thomas Underwood, an uncle. Towles defaulted on the mortgage payment, and on 17 November 1913, Warren A. Stewart sold the property to Thomas N. Underwood (Prince George's County Deed Book 98:20). A 1913 quadrangle map depicts one residential structure, and perhaps a second depending on the accuracy of the placement of the project area, within the subject parcel.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of

### Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 84-31

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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On 16 January 1915 Underwood and his wife in turn sold the property to Frank Budd for 600 dollars (Prince George's County Deed Book 102:150). After an equity case of Alexius M. Edelen and others against Richard Mudd and others, the property was sold on 17 March 1925 to Alexius M. Edelen for 1,800 dollars (Prince George's County Deed Book 231:427). A 1925 quadrangle map depicts a single structure at the subject property. A 1938 aerial photograph provides more details on the land use of the subject property during the second quarter of the twentieth century. North of the drainage is a large agricultural field, while a small forested area is present in the northwest corner of the property. South of the drainage is a residential and farm outbuilding complex surrounded by a grass (hay?) field. Three or four structures (likely three barns or large outbuildings and one residence) can be seen in this photograph.

On 30 August 1944 Edelen sold the property to Hence and Elizabeth Giles (Prince George's County Deed Book 759:99). Two years later, Elizabeth Giles sold the property back to Edelen (Prince George's County Deed Book 873:411), who sold the property a few weeks later on 30 October 1946 to J. Fred and Grace Morris (Prince George's County Deed Book 905:19). A 1956 quadrangle map depicts the presence of one residential structure and one outbuilding on the property at that time. Many residential structures had been constructed in the area as well, suggesting that this construction was a post-World War II event. By 1965, the north agricultural field was covered by trees, and two if not three farm outbuildings are no longer present in the south portion of the parcel. After the death of J. Fred Morris, the property was devised to Lillian M. Matise, and a deed to that effect was recorded on 29 October 1982 (Prince George's County Deed Book 5598:882).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG: 84-31

*Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory of the Matise Property, Prince George's County, Maryland*

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 13.3 acres

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Mount Vernon

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The current legal boundary is suggested to encompass the house, outbuildings, and land associated with the agricultural use of the property.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Becky Reich, Architectural Historian		
organization	Greenhorne & O'Mara	date	June 2008
street & number	6110 Frost Place	telephone	301.982.2800
city or town	Laurel	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

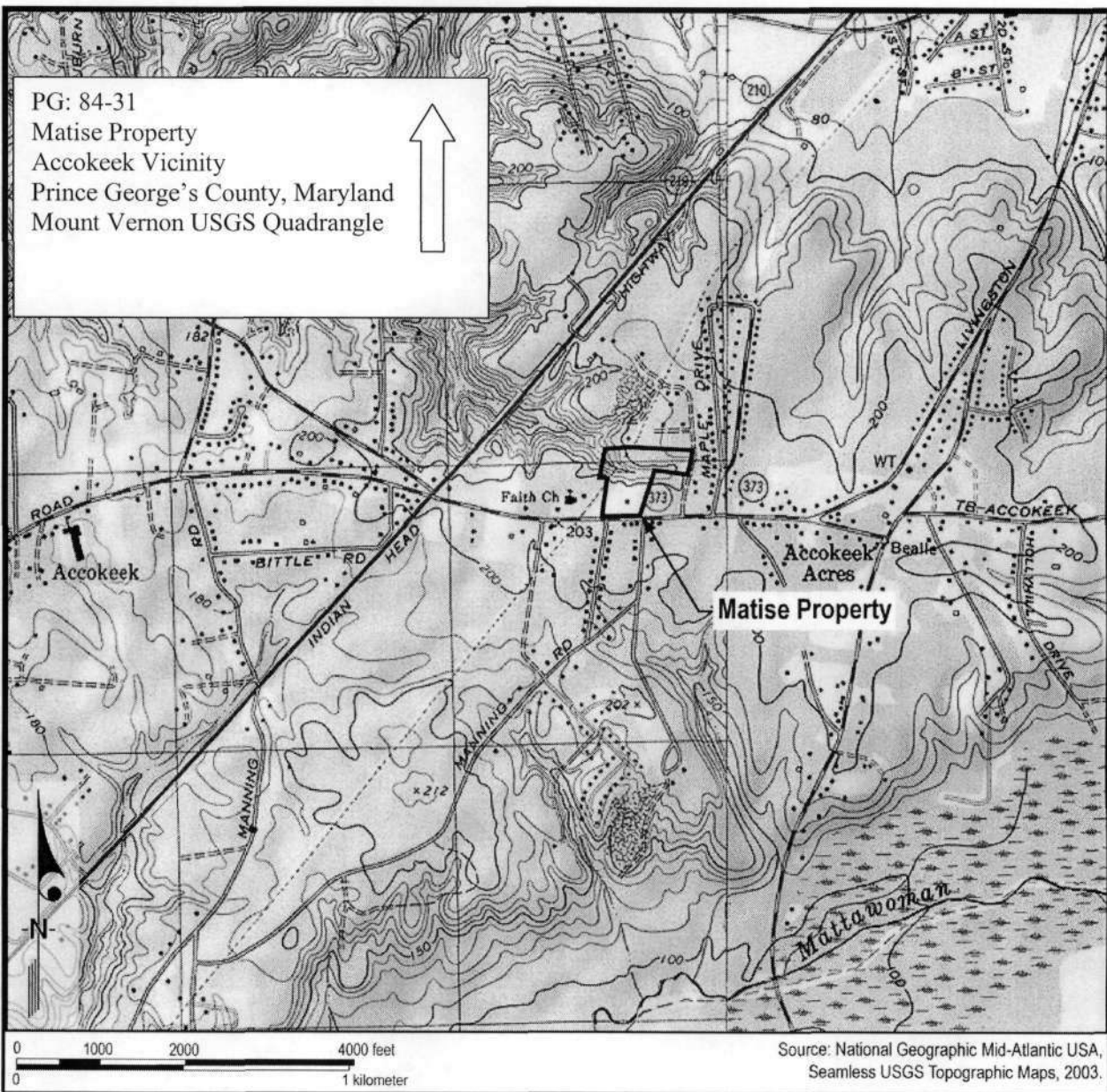
return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

Lillian Matisse Property (Leroy Towles Property)  
15755 Livingston Road (MD 373), Accokeek  
Tax Map 151, Parcel 247

Lillian Matisse Property (Leroy Towles Property)  
15755 Livingston Road (MD 373), Accokeek  
Tax Map 151, Parcel 247







PG: 84-31

Matise Property

Prince George's County

B. Reich, Photographer

June 2008

Negatives @ MD SFPD

Penn E st <NO. ###>013 CAU  
\*33-600f023 N N N 33 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4 / 100.0

View of the house as seen from Livingston  
Road, looking north.

(1 of 14)



PG: 84-31

Matise Property

Prince George's County, MD

B. Reich, Photographer

June 2008

Negative @ MD SHPO

Penn E st <NO. ###>001 CAU  
\*33-600f023 N N N+1 21 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.47 100.0

Closer view of the South facade as seen  
from Livingston Road, looking north.

(2 of 14)





PG 84-31

Matisse Property

Prince George's County, MD

B. Reich, Photographer

June 2008

Negative @ MDSHPD

Penn E st <NO. ###>020 CAU  
\*33-600f023 N N N 40 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4/ 100.0

View of the south facade and west (side) of  
the Matisse house;  
(3 of 14)



PG 84-31  
Matisse Property  
Prince Georges County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @mDSHP0

Perm E st <NO. ###>010 CAU  
\*33-600f 023 N N N 11 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4/ 100.0

Closer view of the South (front) facade and  
west (side) of the Matisse house  
(4 of 14)





PG 84-31

Matise Property

Prince George's County, MD

B. Reich, Photographer

June 2008

Negative @ MD SHPO

View of the west facade.

(5 of 14)



PG 84-31  
Matise Property  
Prince George's County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @ MDSHPO

Penn E st <NO. ###>007 CAU  
\*33-6004 023 N N N+1 57 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.47 100.0

View of the north (rear) facade.  
(6 of 14)



PG 84-31  
Matise Property  
Prince George's County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @ MD SFPD

Penn E st <NO. ###>002 CAU  
\*33-6004 023 N N N N 21 6072 08.06.19 6R05 2073.4/100.0

View of the east facade. The current tenants  
use the porch as the main entry into the  
house

(7 of 14)





PG 84-31  
Matise Property  
Prince George's County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @ MD SHPO

Penn E st <No. ###>003 CAU  
\*33-600f 023 N N N 10 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4/100.0

Outbuilding No. 1, view of the South facade.  
Facing the driveway and Livingston Road  
(8 of 14)



PG 84-31  
Matisse Property  
Prince George's County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @ MD SHPO

Penn E st < NO. ### > 014 BN  
\*33-600f 023 N N N+1 30 6070 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4 / 100.0

View of the east (side) of Outbuilding No. 1  
(9 of 14)



PG 84-31  
Matise Property  
Prince George's County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @ MDSHPO

Penn E st <No. ###> 004 CAU  
\*33-6004 023 N N N 36 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.47 100.0

Outbuilding No. 2, the west side of Outbuilding  
No. 1 is in the background.

(10 of 14)





PG 84-31  
Matise Property  
Prince George's County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @ MD SHPO

Penn E st <NO. ###>018 BN  
\*33-600f023 N N N+1 18 6070 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4/ 100.0

View of the doorway of Outbuilding No. 3.  
(11 of 14)



PG 84-31

Matise Property

Prince George's County, MD

B. Reich, Photographer

June 2008

Negative @ MD SHPO

Penn E st < NO. ### > 005 CPU  
\*33-600+023 N N N+2 05 6072 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4/ 100.0

View of Outbuilding No. 4 - gable front.  
(12 of 14)



PG 84-31  
Matise Property  
Prince George's County, MD  
B. Reich, Photographer  
June 2008  
Negative @ MD SHPO

Perm E st <No. ###>012 BN  
\*33-600f 023 N N N 21 6070 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4/100.0

View of the west side of Outbuilding No. 4.  
(13 of 14)



PG 84-31

Matise Property

Prince George's County, MD

B. Reich, Photographer

June 2008

Negative @ MD SHPO

Penn E st <No. ###>008 BN  
\*33-600f023 N N N+2 01 6070 08.06.19 GR05 2073.4/100.0

In the foreground is the remains of a foundation of an outbuilding. The house, in the background, is the northeast corner.

(14 of 14)